

## Surgeons turn writers, wrestle with words and meaning at College course on scientific writing

While most Congress participants were still en route to Atlantic City, and others were unpacking suitcases or taking a first exploratory stroll along the Boardwalk, 110 surgeons were already gathered at the Dennis Hotel for a weekend of workshops challenging them to wrestle with words and their meaning.

Unlike other Congress programs, this College-sponsored effort to help Fellows improve their skill as writers was conceived as an intellectual exercise which required thorough preparation not only from faculty members, but from the participants themselves.

Each participant had to submit a sample of his writing for editing and review, in advance of the course, by one of the seven instructors comprising the faculty. Additionally, each participant was required to review and edit, also in advance, the samples of writing submitted by all other members of one of the six workshops to which he had been assigned. Consequently, each participant came to the meeting prepared with an editorial critique of about 18 manuscripts.

Besides offering workshops at which  
(Continued on Page 4)

## Altemeier: hard to understand apathy re surgical infections

After 25 years of antibiotic therapy, the overall incidence of infection associated with surgical operations or other trauma, accidental or otherwise, has not been reduced, W. A. Altemeier, Cincinnati, pointed out yesterday during the course of delivering this year's Scudder Oration on Trauma. He called it another area of "crisis and apathy" in our society.

Reporting estimated incidence for 1967, Dr. Altemeier said there were 31,600,000 hospital admissions, 18,800,000 surgical operations in the operating room, and 1,391,200 infections, for a percentage of 7.4.

"Considering the continuing high incidence of infection in trauma and its serious consequences, it is most difficult to understand the relatively small amount of interest of surgeons and the overall effort and money expended in solving this problem," said Dr. Altemeier. "At best they must be considered to be minimal and inadequate."

The speaker, a member of the Center for the Comprehensive Study of Trauma at the University of Cincinnati, said one study of the cost of an infection developing in an operative wound indicated that the total was \$7,000 for an elective operation. This estimate took into account the physicians' fees, funeral expenses, compensations, and hospital expenses.

"On this basis, the cost of the estimated 1,400,000 wound infections during 1967 was approximately \$9.8 billion," he said. "In consideration of the fact that this estimate does not include all hospital-acquired and other iatrogenic infections, the estimated cost of \$9.8 billion is inadequate and probably would approach twice this amount. The question should be asked, could not this expense be better expended in the delivery of health care in trauma patients, the development of preventive measures and an expanded research program?"

Bacterial contamination is only part of the story of wound infection, said the speaker. Other facts are the presence of devitalized resistance to bacterial growth; decreased blood supply resulting from injury, tight packing, and constricting bandages; foreign bodies; location of the wound; delay in treatment for six or more hours; the biochemical and physiological state of the wound; and the general condition of the patient.

Dr. Altemeier said there has been a 14-fold increase in the number of Gram-negative bacteria. Between 1932 and 1950, two-thirds of the infections were caused by Gram-positive bacteria.

"Hospital-acquired and iatrogenic (physician-caused) infections have become a serious threat to the delivery and further extension of surgical practice," said Dr. Altemeier. "Effective means for the prevention and control must be developed, particularly in relation to such methods of treatment as continuous intravenous infusions, tracheostomies and their care, indwelling catheters, cortisone therapy, anti-cancer therapy and the use of immunosuppressive agents."

## Tracer of missing persons dept.

Messages may be left and/or picked up at the information desk in the lobby of Convention Hall, or phoned in to 348-7930, 31, 32 or 33. While it is not possible to page individuals nor to make announcements, ACS

staffers Amelia Marolda and Rosemary Sidlo, below, will be on duty to answer any and all questions, including information about registrants' hotel and room numbers. Bulletin boards are nearby.

## INFORMATION DESK

Call Here for Registration & Program Information. Mail, Telegrams, Telephone Messages



## Pathologist Good to speak on cellular engineering at today's I.S. Ravdin Lecture

Robert A. Good, M.D., Minneapolis, will deliver the I. S. Ravdin Lecture in the



ROBERT A. GOOD

Basic Sciences this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Shelburne Hotel. He will speak about "Cellular Engineering."

Dr. Good is Regents' professor of pediatrics and microbiology, and professor of pathology and head of the department at the University of Minnesota. He is a member of the World Health Organization Expert Advisory Panel on Immunology, and in 1970 added to his numerous honors and awards the coveted Albert Lasker Medical Research Award, given to him for his uniquely important contributions to the understanding of the mechanisms of immunity.

The I. S. Ravdin Lecture in the Basic Sciences is named in honor of Dr. I. S. Ravdin, former chairman of the department of surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, and a past president of the College as well as a past chairman of the Board of Governors.

Dr. Good will be introduced by Howard Mahorner, New Orleans, president of the College, who will also preside at the meeting.

## Initiates . . .

. . . may pick up their Fellowship gowns beginning at 10:00 a.m. today in Room 9 on the first balcony of Convention Hall.

The room will remain open till 5:00 this afternoon. Tomorrow's hours will be from 9:00 a.m. till 5:30 p.m.

### Today's motion pictures

Today's motion picture sessions include a General Session, with eight films, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in Room 102 of Convention Hall. Five films will make up the Orthopedic session, which will be held in the North Room of Howard Johnson, Arkansas and Pacific Avenues, beginning at 1:30 this afternoon.

A special Film Festival, Highlights of Previous Cine Clinics, will be held in the Ballroom of Convention Hall beginning at 7:30 this evening.



Greetings were extended in virtually every language to guests at Monday night's reception for international members.

## Chaplain's Corner adds second feature

Two members of the U. S. Navy Chaplain Corps will be in the Wildwood Room at Holiday Inn today, adding a second feature to the popular Chaplain's Corner, a Congress program now in its second year.

Chaplains Bradford W. Long, chief, Chaplain's Service, U. S. Naval Hospital/Philadelphia, and A. David Seeland will be available throughout the day for discussion or to answer questions.

At 12:30 today, also in the Wildwood Room, the Rev. Myron L. Ebersole will speak on the Hospital Chaplain and the Emergency Ward.

Speakers are also scheduled for tomorrow and Friday. Details are on page 192 of the official program. No reservations are required.

### Split screen technique is today's TV feature

Again today, as each day of this Congress week, the color transmittal of surgical procedures being performed at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia will be seen in Room 103 of Convention Hall.

Paul A. Bowers and Roy G. Holly, both of Philadelphia, will perform the first operation at 10:00 a.m. which will involve a split screen technique of simultaneous vaginal and abdominal hysterectomy; Dr. Bowers will perform the vaginal and Dr. Holly the abdominal. Richard E. Symmonds will moderate.

At 1:45 p.m. a biliary/pancreatic procedure will be performed by Charles Fineberg, Philadelphia. Moderating will be Frank Glenn.

Aorto-coronary bypass will be the last operation for today, being performed at 3:30 p.m. by John Y. Templeton III, Philadelphia. W. Gerald Austen, Boston, will moderate.

### Oops!

Our apologies to the Washington University Medical Center Alumni Assn., whose reception, contrary to what was listed in Tuesday's issue of the News, was **not** last night. It is tonight, and starts at 5:30 in Kerry Hall of the Shelburne Hotel.

### Registration facts

As of 5:00 p.m. Tuesday

Doctors .....	7,909
Ladies .....	2,227
Industrial exhibitors .....	2,051
Visitors .....	194
Press and staff .....	258

Total

12,639



The Board of Governors of ACS spent Sunday afternoon in discussion groups; this one, one of ten, was chaired by Judson Randolph, left at head of table. William R. Drucker, right at head of table, chairman of the ACS Board of Regents committee on relationships with young surgeons, served as resource person.

## Five to receive honorary Fellowships

Five honorary Fellowships in the American College of Surgeons will be presented tomorrow evening during convocation ceremonies in the Ballroom of Convention Hall. Presentation of the honorary Fellowships will be made by Howard Mahorner, of New Orleans, President of the College.

The recipients:

—Sir Thomas Holmes Sellors, London, England, who is currently serving as President of the Royal College of Surgeons and who, next year, will assume the Presidency of the British Medical Association.

—Prof. Witold Rudowski, Warsaw, Poland. Since 1964 he has been Professor of Surgery, and Director of the Warsaw Institute of Hematology.

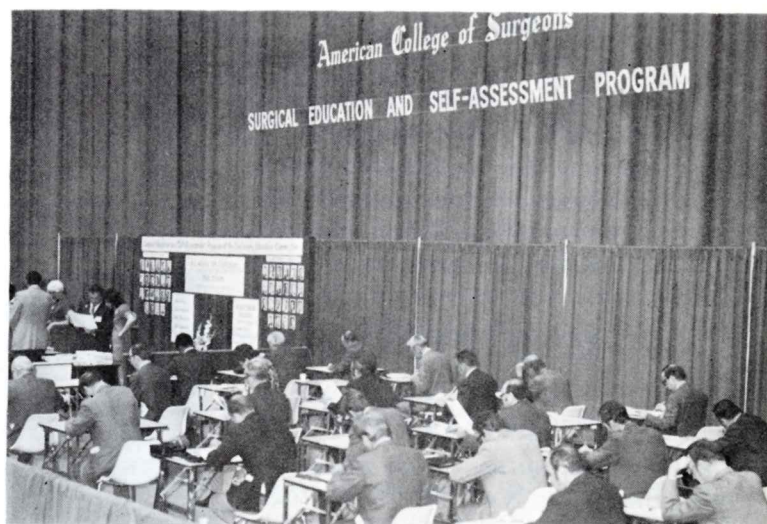
—Prof. Juan Allamand, Chile. He was appointed an Associate Professor of Chile Medical School in 1951, and served as full Professor and Chairman of the Department from 1958 to 1970. Since then he has served as Professor in charge of graduate teaching under the National Health Service.

—Prof. Dr. Emilo Etala, of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He became Professor of Surgery at the University of Buenos Aires in 1962, and the following year was named Chief of the Surgical Service at Alvear Hospital, a position he currently holds.

—Dr. Alberto Sabogal Sologuren, Callao, Peru. Since 1929, Dr. Sabogal has been Chief of Surgery of the Hospital D.A. Carrion, which is affiliated with both the University of San Marcos and the University of Cayetano Heredia.

The first convocation of the College was held November 13, 1913, and Sir Rickman J. Godlee, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and nephew of Lord Lister, gave the first Fellowship address and received the first honorary Fellowship. Since then, 252 outstanding surgeons, including the five this year, have received honorary Fellowships.

Incentive is not lacking among these surgeons taking part in the sample SESAP program on the stage in the exhibit area of Convention Hall. Several of the 1316 who have taken the test as of Tuesday afternoon are shown here with the 15-item sample program.



## Pamphlets are not distributed by ACS

During some sessions of the Congress, and in different locations, certain pieces of literature dealing with legislative and socio-economic matters have been distributed to Fellows and to others in attendance.

The College wishes to inform those who have, or might, receive this or any related literature, that such distribution is unauthorized and inappropriate.

## Please . . .

. . . look over the bulletin boards behind the Information Desk in the lobby of Convention Hall. Messages are piling up, and Rosemary and Amelia (see page 1) are running out of space.

## Messages

348-7930, 31, 32, 33

## Medical care

(Atlantic City Hospital)

344-2254, ext. 229.



The Hospitality Suite provides a refreshing break for Congress women.

## Jewelry, other items with ACS seal are on display

Expressly created for Fellows on the College, distinctive items featuring the College seal are on display, and available for purchase, in Booth 223 in the industrial exhibit area in Convention Hall.

Morgan's/John Roberts of St. Charles, Illinois invite all Fellows to stop by and view. Items available include tie bars, cuff links, wallets and keys.

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SIR THOMAS



PROF. RUDOWSKI



PROF. ALLAMAND



PROF. ETALA



DR. SABOGAL

**Surgeons turn writers***(Continued from Page 1)*

each manuscript was candidly discussed among authors, the instructor, and the surgeon-editors, the course featured a number of plenary sessions useful to the surgeon-turned-writer. These sessions dealt with matters as basic as writing the first draft and preparing illustrations, and as subtle as the art of writing grant applications, and the need for observing the legal and ethical rules of scientific writing.

Chairing the course, which was titled "Improving Your Writing: From Logical Thought to Lucid Language," was Lois DeBakey, PhD, professor of scientific communications at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. Nationally known editors of medical and scientific publications made up the faculty. They were: Franz Ingelfinger, MD, editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*; Karl Heumann, PhD, editor of *Federation Proceedings*, the official journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology; Helen Evans

Reid, MD, medical author and director of the department of medical publications at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada; Selma DeBakey, BA, editor of the *Cardiovascular Research Bulletin*; Eli Chernin, ScD, assistant editor of the *Journal of Parasitology*, and George N. Eaves, PhD, executive

secretary of the Molecular Biology Study Section, National Institutes of Health.

The course, which was limited to 100 participants who were each charged a registration fee of \$100, will be repeated next year either in conjunction with the 1972 Clinical Congress, or as a separate College program.



Holding a manuscript which has been reviewed by him and the members of his workshop in advance of the Clinical Congress, Dr. Eli Chernin (with glasses, at head of table) explains to his attentively listening group a point of editorial accuracy.

**Society of Surgical Chairmen**

4:00-7:00 p.m.

Meeting

Dennis Hotel — Garden Lounge

**International Advisory Committee Organ Transplant Committee**

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Meeting

Dennis Hotel — Wicker Room

**Heads of Surgical Departments of Canada**

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Meeting

Shelburne Hotel — Manor Room

**Lahey Clinic**

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Cocktail Party

Holiday Inn — Margate A and B

**Maryland Chapter of ACS**

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Reception

Marlborough-Blenheim — Room 46

**Wayne State University School of Medicine**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Reception

Shelburne Hotel — Mirror Room

**Methodist Hospital of Brooklyn Alumni and Staff**

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Reception

Claridge Hotel — 518

**Mayo Graduate School of Medicine Alumni**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Reception

Shelburne Hotel — Solarium

**W. B. Saunders Company**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Reception

Dennis Hotel — Solarium

**Cleveland Clinic Foundation Alumni**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Reception

Shelburne Hotel — Mirror Room

**State University of New York at Buffalo Medical Alumni**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Reception

Dennis Hotel — The Tent

**Today's get-togethers**

*A listing of meetings, reunions, receptions, et al, both formal and not-so-formal, which will take place today or early tomorrow.*

**Harvard Surgical Service Boston City Hospital**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Reception

(For location, phone 348-6414)

**Puerto Rico Chapter of ACS**

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Rum Party

Shelburne Hotel — Suite

**St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center of New York Surgical Staff**

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Reception

Shelburne Hotel — Brady Room

**University of Chicago Surgical Alumni**

5:30-10:00 p.m.

Reception and Dinner

Holiday Inn — Wildwood Room

**Temple University Medical Alumni Assn.**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Reception

Holiday Inn — Cape May Room

**University of Iowa Alumni**

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Reception

Holiday Inn — Ventnor A and B

**Society of Graduate Surgeons of Los Angeles County General Hospital**

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Reception

Dennis Hotel — Ozone Room

**Columbia Physicians and Surgeons and Presbyterian Hospital Alumni**

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Reception

Holiday Inn — Ballroom C

**Deknatel**

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Reception

Claridge Hotel — Solarium

**Surgical Society of the New York Medical College**

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Reception

Shelburne Hotel — Coral Reef Room

**University of Kansas Medical Center**

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Reception

Dennis Hotel — St. Denis Room

**Grasslands Hospital**

6:00-10:00 p.m.

Reception and Dinner

Claridge Hotel — West Room

**Mont Reid Surgical Society**

6:00-11:00 p.m.

Dinner Meeting

Holiday Inn — Ballroom B

**Matthew Walker Surgical Club**

Annual Dinner Meeting

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Algiers Motel

**University of Virginia Medical Alumni**

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Reception

Shelburne Hotel — Suite 921/923

**New Jersey Medical School**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Department of Surgery Dinner

Zabner's Restaurant — Black Horse Pike

**Society of Loma Linda University Surgeons**

6:30-10:00 p.m.

Dinner Meeting

Claridge Hotel — Windsor Room

**Naval Hospital Surgeons**

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Reception

Holiday Inn — Ballroom A

**4th Auxiliary Surgical Group**

7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Dinner

Shelburne Hotel — Room 421

**University of North Carolina School of Medicine Alumni**

7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Reception

Sheraton-Deauville — Hospitality Suite